

Fiscal Note

Fiscal Services Division



HF 563 – Concussion Injuries, School Policies (LSB1453HV)

Analyst: Jocelyn Gerrietts (Phone: (515)725-2249) (josie.gerrietts@legis.iowa.gov)

Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[House File 563](#), successor to [House File 17](#), has two Divisions. The first Division requires an applicant for a coaching authorization issued by the Board of Educational Examiners, and a person employed by a school district as a coach, to successfully complete training in the areas of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) use. A person who possesses a coaching authorization issued before July 1, 2017, has until July 1, 2018, to meet these requirements. Division II of the Bill outlines new protocol requirements for coaches and school districts pertaining to concussions and brain injuries suffered by student athletes during the course of athletic contests. Division II may include a State mandate as defined in Code section 25B.3.

Background

There are an estimated 6,830 varsity student athletic contests per year in a “collision sport,” including soccer, wrestling, and football. These sports present the highest risk of concussion or other accidents causing head injury. The Bill requires that coaches and contest officials of these sports, and any other athletic contests, receive training regarding concussions and brain injuries. Many of the requirements for training, informational sheets, and protocol creation within Division II of the Bill are already in place through the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU), and it will not cost additional funds to expand or implement these requirements as mandated by the Bill.

Assumptions

- Division I does not have a measureable fiscal impact, as low and no-cost options for CPR and AED training are available.
- Division II has a range of possible fiscal impact, depending on what is included in the return-to-school protocol that the Bill encourages be created and implemented, as well as how districts implement that protocol. Assuming that the protocol developed and disseminated by IHSAA and IGHSAU will include baseline testing for student athletes, as encouraged in section 4(1)(d) of the Bill, there will be a cost to schools to implement and offer such testing.
- Any cost for the implementation of these protocols is mandated to come from a school district's funds.

Fiscal Impact

There are two known forms of baseline testing that could be used to satisfy the return-to-school protocol described in the Bill. The first is a software program available to schools at an estimated \$1,500 per 800 students. The second is a protocol provided in person by a person trained in the protocol. Both require significant training for the person administering the protocol, also at cost to the district. Because both the baseline testing inclusion in the protocols and the schools' adoption of those protocols are voluntary, it is unclear how many school districts will choose to implement such protocols. The return-to-play protocol, which is required to be created and adopted, does not specify the use of baseline testing. IGHSAU has indicated that it does not expect a fiscal impact from the other sections of Division II and further fiscal

impact to school districts cannot be determined as it is unclear how far along any given district is in implementing these protocols already.

Sources

Department of Education
Iowa High School Athletic Association
Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union
LSA analysis

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
